

MIDDLESEX SAMPLING PLANT, GARAGE  
230 Mountain Avenue  
Middlesex  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-107-D

HAER  
NJ  
12-MIDSEX,  
ID-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## MIDDLESEX SAMPLING PLANT, GARAGE

HAER NO. NJ-107-D

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NJ  
12-MIDDLESEX  
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**Location:** 239 Mountain Avenue  
Middlesex, Middlesex County  
New Jersey  
UTM: Zone 0018, Easting 542994.49963, Northing 4491095.76065  
Quad: Plainfield, New Jersey, 1:24,000

**Dates of Construction:** 1950, 1970s

**Engineer/Architect:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Energy  
Oak Ridge Operations Office  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723

**Present Use:** Storage

**Significance:** This six-car garage was part of the Middlesex Sampling Plant used between 1943-67 for sampling uranium, beryllium, and thorium for the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission for use in the development of atomic weapons. This work was part of a top-secret nationwide fabricating effort during World War II to develop an atom bomb, and post-war, to create atomic weapons as part of President Harry S. Truman's Cold War policy of military supremacy over the Soviet Union.

### Project Information Statement:

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will demolish the process building and the boiler house as part of site remediation and decontamination. A Memorandum of Agreement between the DOE-Former Sites Restoration Division (FSRD) and the New Jersey SHPO stipulated HAER documentation to mitigate this adverse effect. This documentation was undertaken to fulfill this stipulation.

Alexandra C. Cole  
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program  
Contract No. DE-AC05-91OR21950  
Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)  
816 State Street, Suite 500  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

## **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The six-car garage is a one-and-one-half story rectangular building of wood frame covered with stucco, measuring 36 feet by 96 feet. The flat roof is constructed of plywood covered with rolled asphalt roofing. The interior structural system consists of ten concrete piers topped by wood posts and trusses. On the west side are five roll-up wooden doors of paneled wood with top rows of windows. Four are identical in height and the fifth is lower. At the south corner of the west side is a single personnel door of wood. There are six-over-six pane double-hung wood sash windows on the first floor on the north, south, and east sides, and square fixed one-over-one pane windows at the mezzanine level on the west and south sides.

The interior is divided into three rooms, with spaces for two cars, three cars, and storage, respectively. An office space is located on the mezzanine at the south end of the building, reached by a flight of wooden stairs. The floors are concrete. The lighting is fluorescent.

There have been numerous alterations to this building. The original garage, constructed in 1950, was a shed-roof wood-frame building with corrugated metal siding. A 5-foot wide concrete apron extended along the front (west) of the building (Cahalane 1958:15). At some time, probably after 1969 when the Marine Sixth Motor Transport Battalion Reserves were stationed on the property, the roof was raised 8 feet to provide a mezzanine area, the front was extended 5 feet to encompass the original exterior apron, and stucco siding was added. The "ghost" of the original building outline is visible through cracks in the stucco siding.

The garage was used for parking cars during the MED period, and for trucks during the Marine period. It is currently used for parking trucks and as a workshop.

**Sources of Information:**

Interviews

Edward Porowski, telephone interviews May 1996, Santa Barbara, California to Piscataway, New Jersey.  
Former guard at MSP from 1946-1951.

Gerry Blust, April 1996, Middlesex, New Jersey. Bechtel, Site Manager MSP.

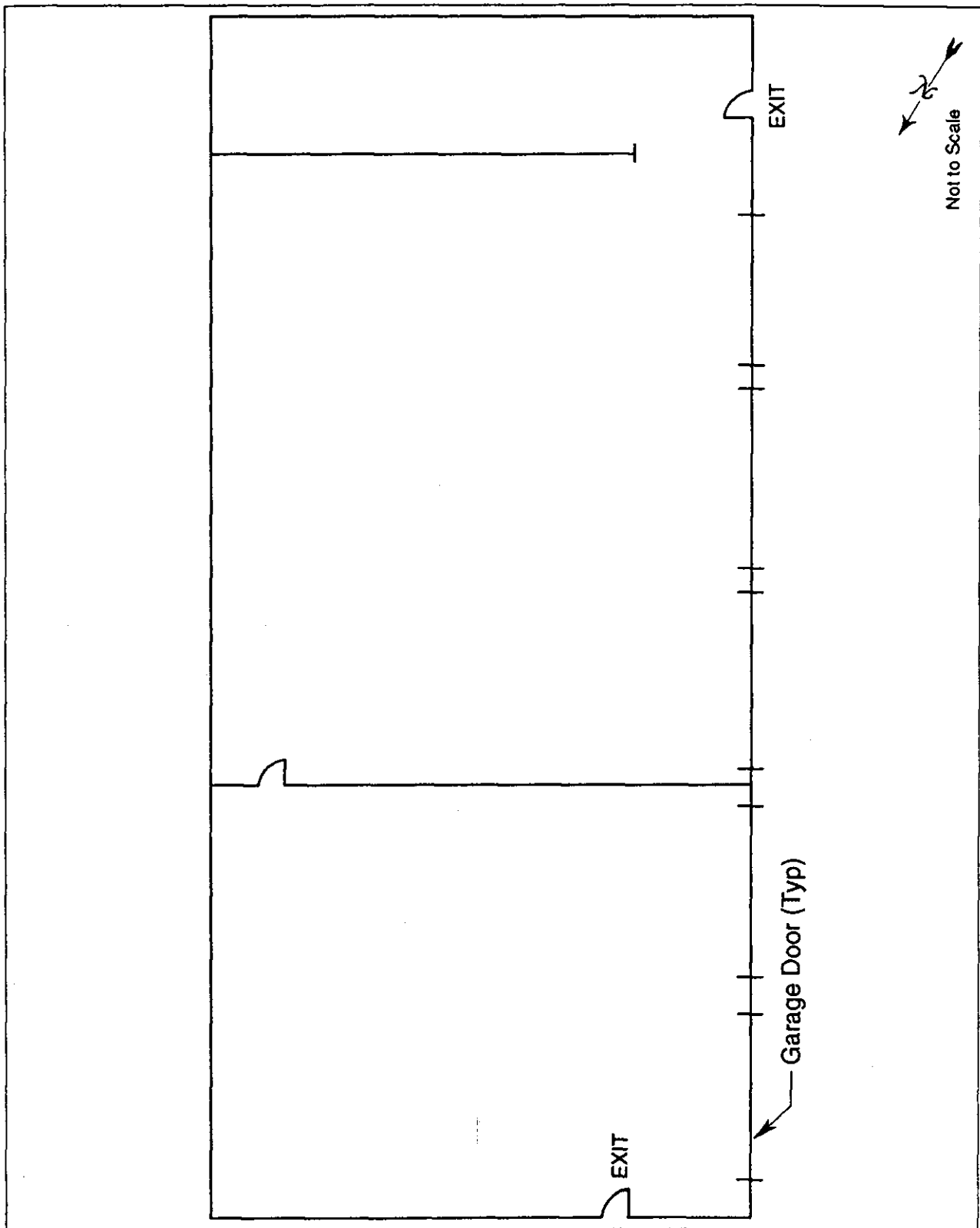
**Bibliography**

Primary Sources

Borough of Middlesex Tax Assessors Records, Block 318, Lot 1A. Located at Middlesex Tax Assessor's Office.

Secondary Sources

Cahalane, R.W. *The History of the Middlesex Sampling Plant*. Cincinnati, Ohio: National Lead Company of Ohio, 1958. NLCO-733 Special. Contract Number AT (30-1)-1156.



GARAGE FLOOR PLAN. 1996